

STRONG FRENCH FORTRESS FALLS BEFORE GERMANS

WORK OF SESSION IS REVIEWED

Col. O'Neill, State Senator, Comments on
Measures Enacted; Says Members
Worked Hard to Finish in Least
Possible Time

USURY LAW HITS SMALL BORROWER

Not Effective for 90 Days and May Be
Modified Next January if Found
Necessary; Other Excellent
Laws Enacted

Senator Thomas J. O'Neill expressed himself today as being well pleased with the work accomplished by both the house and senate during the time the special session lasted and stated that he considered adjournment was brought about in a reasonably expeditious manner, the legislators having remained in session as short a time as was possible to accomplish the legislation which was demanded in their call by Governor Williams.

Senator O'Neill said many of the members of both houses, particularly those serving on the committees had worked day and night, ardently and effectively. "Of course," said the senator, "many matters arose upon which there would be divergencies of opinion. All such matters had to be threshed out and argued pro and con before a unanimity of action could possibly be obtained."

Considering the comparatively short time the special assembly was in session the senator thought many excellent measures had been adopted, laws which will ultimately prove of great good to the masses of the people.

When questioned as to the effect the usury law will have upon both the bankers and the people generally, the borrowing class of people, Senator O'Neill said that the bill would undoubtedly work a hardship along some lines. The bankers, he said, are undoubtedly viewing the situation just as it exists. The small borrower will be hit as well as the banker and that it will work a hardship on him must, the senator stated, be readily admitted by those who supported the measure as well as by those who voted against the bill's final passage. The man who has been in the habit of asking and obtaining loans in sums from \$10 to \$300 and whose security has usually been his honesty and his reputation of always paying his bills, will be affected by the usury law for the simple reason that the loan which he desires will be so unattractive to the banker or the man with money to loan, that he will not care to take chances of making the loan on the small interest remuneration which the law will now allow him to charge.

An effort was made, Senator O'Neill stated, to fix a minimum interest charge which might be allowed on all small loans. This effort was made in the form of an amendment to the bill as it was ultimately passed, but the amendment was defeated.

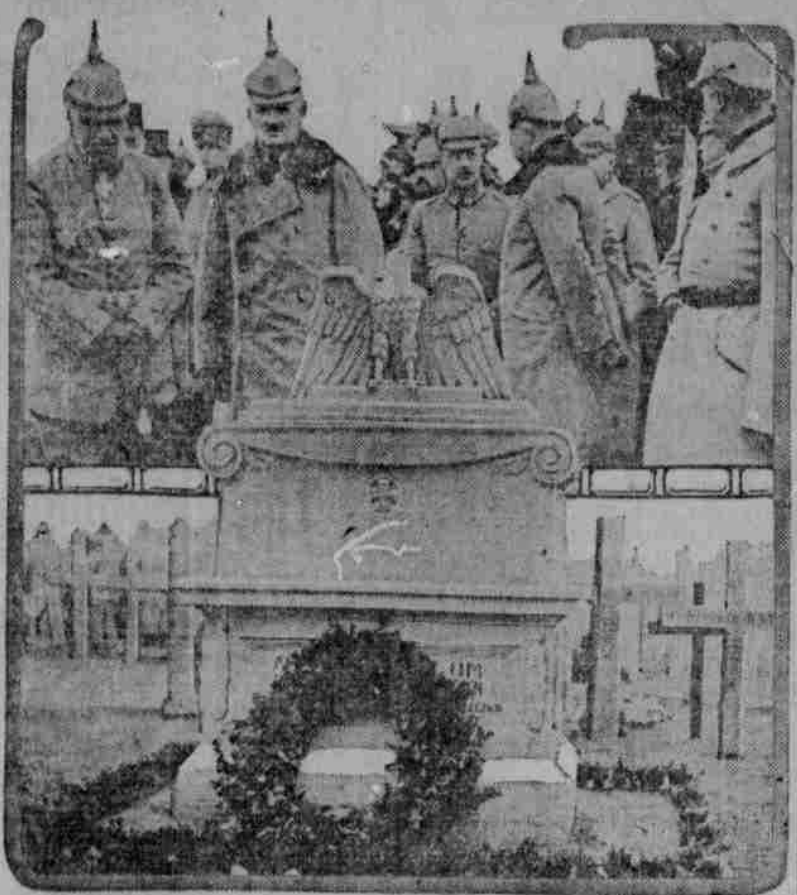
There can be no question, the senator stated, of the constitutionality of the law as it was finally passed. He further stated that it was the chief effort of the senators and the house members to enact some legislation which would protect, from extortion, the interest charges, the small borrower. Unfortunately, the senator said, insurmountable difficulties have arisen and have presented themselves which it may be feared will render the measure so drastic that many small borrowers will be deprived of the use of money on the security they may be able to give.

"Our efforts, however," said Senator O'Neill, "were along lines calculated to protect the little fellow. The big borrower, as a rule, has security ample to get his loans and is never charged an extortionate rate. The man who borrowed from \$10 to \$300 has been the man who has complained."

The senator stated that inasmuch as

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MONUMENT TO GERMAN SOLDIERS UNVEILED



The upper photograph shows Generals von Boehm and Charles de Baulon at the unveiling of the monument erected in memory of the German soldiers who fell in the battle of Lens, France. The lower photograph shows the monument in the graveyard at Lens on the Lorette heights.

COUNT ON CONGRESS TO COERCE

Germany Believes President Will Be Compelled to Back Down in Position on Armed Merchantmen and Submarine Warfare

By CARL W. ACKERMAN,
(United Press Staff Correspondent.)

BERLIN, Feb. 26.—The United Press correspondent learns today that Germany is counting on the American congress to force President Wilson to back down in the controversy in regard to armed merchantmen.

Officials here refuse to comment for publication relative to the matter, but the general feeling is that if the question is referred to congress, a resolution will be put through warning Americans not to take passage on beligerent ships that are armed.

ROSS COX FOR CLERK

Ross Cox announces today as a candidate for the office of county clerk of Grady county, subject to the action of the voters at the primary election to be held on Tuesday, August 1.

Ross Cox needs no introduction to the people of Grady county. He has lived in Grady county since the days of his earliest infancy, coming here, with his parents when they removed to the old Indian Territory when he was but one year old. He was reared on a farm near Rush Springs and his father, J. B. Cox, is still a resident of that neighborhood and one of the successful farmers of Grady county.

Mr. Cox is thoroughly familiar with the duties of the office for which he asks the support of the voters of the county. He served three years as chief deputy under the present county clerk, F. P. Bradley. Prior to entering upon the office of deputy county clerk, Mr. Cox had served the people as a deputy under George Petty, the first registrar of deeds of this county after statehood.

In addition to the experience gained as a deputy in the two offices named, Mr. Cox is an experienced book-keeper and an expert accountant and as such well qualified to handle the books of the county.

Ross Cox is a young man of sterling integrity, of unquestioned uprightness of character and a Democrat of

the old time strain. His record is clean and his qualifications for the office are beyond question. He comes before the voters of Grady county asking their support and promises, should he be nominated and elected that he will discharge the duties of clerk in an efficient, an economical and a business manner.

FOR CLERK OF COURTS

Mrs. Edna T. Watkins announces in this issue of the Express as a candidate for the democratic nomination to the office of court clerk of Grady county.

Mrs. Watkins is a native of Texas, but has been an Oklahoman for 26 years. She is well fitted to fill the office, having served for eight years, or since statehood, as deputy in the court clerk's office.

Should she be nominated and elected, Mrs. Watkins pledges herself to give the people of Grady county an honest, an efficient and an economical administration of the affairs of the office.

"I shall appreciate the honor which the voters will bestow upon me, should they nominate me," Mrs. Watkins states, "and in return for that honor will give them the best service in my power."

MEN MEET TO DINE AT NOON HOUR

Good fellowship reigned supreme at the first meeting of the Men's Dinner club, held at the Geronimo hotel at the noon hour today. The dinner was the principal item of serious business transacted and the same program will be followed at future meetings.

R. H. Roche was elected president of the club and J. J. Merrill was chosen secretary. It was announced that 45 or more members have signed the roll which is wide open to all who desire to join. The next meeting will be held about a month hence. The primary purpose of the club is the promotion of more friendly relations among the men of the city. In the future the dinners will take place in the evening.

Dr. G. H. Thrallkill was the principal after-dinner speaker at the meeting today, his remarks being of a very felicitous nature and provoking prolonged applause.

FIRST BREAK IN DEFENSES OF VERDUN

Great Stronghold is Menaced by Mighty
Strike of Crown Prince; Way Open
to Bring Big Guns to
Bear

LOSSES ON BOTH SIDES ENORMOUS

Unofficially Placed at Over Hundred Thousand; French are Pushed Back Four Miles; Russians Capture Important City in Persia

By United Press.

LONDON, Feb. 26.—The strong French fortress of Dumont, defending Verdun from the northeast and located only four miles from the outskirts of the city, has fallen before the German attack, according to an official announcement issued at Berlin.

The evacuation of this fortress, it is believed, was preceded by the collapse of the whole French line from the ridge Cote Du Poivre eastward through Ezeuviaux.

The fall of Dumont marks the first breach in the Verdun forts and is believed to indicate that the whole of the great French fortress is threatened by the mightiest stroke that has been delivered by the crown prince since the fighting around Verdun began.

Dispatches say the Kaiser himself witnessed the capture of Dumont. The crown prince can now bring heavy guns to bear on Fort Devaur and Detavennes, immediately south of Dumont, and Fort Du Belleville, which is just outside of Verdun.

At the same time the Germans can sweep the entire northern plain about the city of Verdun.

No accurate estimate of the losses can be obtained, but it is accepted that the casualties on both sides aggregated over one hundred thousand men.

The French report that the Germans lost one hundred and fifty thousand but this figure is regarded as too high. The French line was thrown back four miles along an eight-mile front.

Verdun, which hitherto has been considered impregnable, is now believed to be seriously threatened. The official French statement, issued this afternoon fails to confirm the fall of Dumont.

Russ Take Persian City.
By United Press.

PEROGRA, Feb. 26.—The Russians have captured the important Persian city of Kermanshah, after a battle lasting three days, according to delayed dispatches reaching here today.

It is expected that the czar's forces will now march toward Mesopotamia, with a view to forming a junction with the British at Kut-el-Amara, one hundred and fifty miles away.

The Turks in Armenia, after a battle lasting several days, have been driven back to a position nine miles from Bitlis.

FOOD RIOT REPORTED

By United Press.

LAREDO, Tex., Feb. 26.—Passengers arriving here from Monterey, Mexico, say a riot occurred there Thursday when hungry people broke into many stores and took food from the merchants.

The merchants had refused to accept Carranza currency in denominations of from ten to twenty pesos.

Reports say similar conditions prevail at Nuevo Laredo, where the merchants also decline to accept Carranza bills of large denominations.

STRAIN IN RELATIONS AT CLIMAX

Answer of Germany is Hourly Expected
but No Concession Anticipated; Congress Not Likely to Interfere in Time

LESS EXCITEMENT EVIDENT AT CAPITAL

Discussion of Issue Kept Down in Both Houses; State Department Receives Reply from Allies but Nature Not Indicated

By United Press.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 26.—It is believed today that the climax in the strained diplomatic relations between the United States and Germany is imminent.

Germany's reply to Secretary Lansing's representations to the effect that the new submarine order invalidates assurances already given by Germany in the Lusitania case is expected hourly.

It is believed that Ambassador Bernstorff will be in a position to give the state department Germany's answer Monday. The administration is convinced however, that the reply will be unsatisfactory. It is understood that Germany will not be asked to delay putting the decree into effect.

With the initiation of the new German submarine campaign, only four days away, it appears unlikely that congress will intervene effectively before that date and its possible consequences arrive.

Without being asked, it is not expected that Germany will postpone putting into operation the new decree.

In the meantime Washington is exhibiting less excitement than has been in evidence here for several days. This is due largely to the restrictive measures that have been adopted by the administration leaders. The discussion of the question was kept from the floor of both houses up to a late hour this afternoon.

The state department today announced the receipt of a reply from one of the allies to the proposal that merchantmen be disarmed.

The identity of the country sending the reply was withheld temporarily and the nature of the answer was not indicated.

WEATHER FORECAST. For Oklahoma.

Tonight and Sunday, fair; warmer in west portion Sunday.

Local Temperature.

During twenty-four hours ending 8 a. m. today:

Maximum, 65 degrees.

Minimum, 35 degrees.

NEW YORK ALARMED

By United Press.

NEW YORK, Feb. 26.—Anonymous threats of a reign of terror along the New York water front and two mysterious occurrences during the past few hours have caused the police to take the greatest precautions to prevent new outbreaks.

A barge carrying 150 automobiles, which were ready for shipment to the allies was sunk and a fire of incendiary origin broke out on a ship that was loaded with munitions.

COMING CONTESTS ON GOLF-COURSE OF COUNTRY CLUB

In addition to clashes with foreign foes, the golf course of the Chickasha Country club is going to be the scene of a number of contests among local devotees of the game, according to the schedule of events announced for the coming season. It is understood that Oklahoma City will send a team here in the not distant future to contend with the local premiers. The complete scheduled events in which members of the Chickasha club will be matched for supremacy is as follows:

Tuesday, April 25—18 holes, medal score, Open Medal Handicap cup.

Tuesday, May 30—36 holes, Medal score, class A, B, and C. Memorial Day handicap.

Monday, June 12—18 holes, Ladies' Handicap cup.

Tuesday, July 4—18 holes, class A, and C. Open Handicap cup.

Wednesday, Aug. 1—36 holes, medal score, President's Handicap cup.

Monday, Aug. 1—18 holes, Ladies' open championship.

Monday, Sept. 4—18 holes, Labor Day open championship.

The United States government expected a joint reply from the allies.

BOMB THROWERS ON HARTMANNSWEILERKOPF



French bomb throwers in action in a trench on Hartmannsweilerkopf, the height that has been the scene of some of the bloodiest combats of the war on the western front. It has been taken and retaken repeatedly.

DIRECTORS OF BUREAU IN SESSION

Committee on New Home Reports and Deal for New Building Will Likely Be Closed Today; Rest Room to Be Feature

72 NEW MEMBERS ADDED TO ROLLS

Board Thanks Clark, Morgan and Hutson; Mayor Coffman Promises Co-operation in Civic Improvement; New Advertising Matter Ordered

The Grady County Commercial and Farm bureau directors held their regular monthly meeting last evening, in the rooms of the bureau, 326 Chickasha avenue, with the following membership present: President W. H. Gilkey, Secretary W. W. Clark, Jonas Cook, W. H. Donahue, George H. Evans, Myron Humphrey, William Inman, J. W. Kayser, Ben Morgan, Roy Smith, R. L. Wallace.

The committee entrusted with locating and securing new quarters for the bureau submitted a partial report and were empowered to close the deal for the new quarters after the selection may be made.

Mayor Coffman appeared before the bureau and stated to those present that he, as chief executive of the city, could assure the membership of the bureau that the city officials would gladly act in conjunction with all parties in the matter of the beautification of the city and in the interests of civic improvement.

Park matters were called up for discussion, but no definite action was taken. Several possible sites for parks were proposed and discussed, as was the manner in which the proposed parks should be laid out and beautified. The park matter was finally turned over to the development board, composed of Jonas Cook, Ed F. Johns, Ben F. Johnson, Thomas H. Dwyer, L. C. Hutson.

The date of the regular meetings of the bureau was changed from the second Tuesday to the second Friday in each month. This was done on account of the old date conflicting with other dates which would necessarily prevent many board members from attending the bureau's meetings.

The committee on membership, composed of Judge W. W. Clark and Messrs. Hutson and Morgan, reported the result of their recent campaign for new membership. The report showed that the committee had added 72 new members to the roster of the bureau. The committee was tendered a vote of thanks by the members for the manner in which the duties imposed upon the committee had been discharged.

The matter of advertising the many good things to be had in Grady county and in Chickasha was taken up. It was suggested that the bureau get out new literature to be mailed out to possible homeseekers from other sections who would care to investigate the opportunities which may be found here. For this purpose the secretary was instructed to call the advertising committee consisting of Messrs. Kayser, Cook and Evans, together with instructions for them to get busy.

Members of the committee on location of club's headquarters, when seen this morning, stated that it was thought the selection of a "new home" would be agreed upon some time during the day. It was stated that it was more than possible the Horn building, on Chickasha avenue, would be selected. In event this building should be selected, a member of the committee stated that the entire room would be used for club purposes. The room runs back to a depth of 125 feet and would afford plenty of room for all exhibits, which are now in a crowded condition, enabling the arrangement of these exhibits in the best possible manner. Also plenty of office room would be available, as well as facilities for "Rest Room" purposes.